

59219 Salmon Farming Education in Schools

I would be grateful if the following request could be submitted under the relevant FOI legislation.

In schools in your local council area, are pupils taught about:

- a. salmon farming?
- b. salmon fishing?
- c. fish farming?
- d. the wider fishing industry and trade?
- e. problems the industry encounters?

Yes – In some schools.

Is salmon farming part of the curriculum?

Yes – In some schools.

We follow the guidance provided by the Scottish Government on the curriculum – 'Career Education Standard (3-18) September 2015' published at:

<https://education.gov.scot/media/1okhy35c/dyw2-career-education-standard-0915.pdf>

It is also worth noting that teachers are able to interpret areas of the curriculum in different ways, so may not always select salmon fishing/farming as the focus of a particular topic.

In what subjects are pupils taught about salmon farming?

Primary Schools:

Farming

Sustainability

Secondary Schools:

Biology

Environmental Science

Geography

Health & Food Technology

Hospitality – Practical Cookery

History

Modern Studies

Science

At what age/level of education are pupils taught about salmon farming? (S1, S2 etc)

Primary Schools:

P3

P4

P5

P6

P7

Secondary Schools:

S2

S3

S4

S5

S6

What are the specifics of what pupils are taught about salmon farming?

Primary Schools:

Children learn about farming in general.
Salmon farming may be mentioned discreetly as part of wider conversations/teaching inputs about sustainability, industry and food safety.
Pupils cover the topic - under the sea which covers fish, boats, etc.
Indirectly in lessons relating to: Inter Disciplinary Learning, Eco, Farm to Fork, Scottish industry, etc.

Secondary Schools:

Higher Environmental Science curriculum
Briefly discuss fishing within the context of overfishing being a contributor to reduction in ecological biodiversity.
Pupils are not taught specifically about salmon farming. Fish farming is covered in senior phase Practical Cookery (looking at sustainability), S3 Geography (the impact of trawling) and S3/4 Biology (impact of fishing on biodiversity).
S3 History: We briefly look at the decline of the Scottish fishing industry after WW1 as Russian markets collapsed, German markets collapsed and sea mines provided added danger. This is under the broader area of the industrial impact of WW1 on Scotland and is a part of the SQA's Scotland in the Era of the Great War N5 History course. Higher History - We briefly revisit the above topic, this time as a motivation for Scots migration - i.e. the decline of

the herring industry pushed many Scots fishermen to migrate either to the Central Belt or to emigrate. Again, this is part of the SQA's Higher History unit Migration & Empire.

The Pupils are not taught about Salmon Fishing but are taught about Sustainability and over-fishing in relation to ecology and environmental damage. This is part of a broader conversation not a specific topic.

Salmon fishing and farming are taught with a focus on sustainability. When teaching reproduction in Biology, volume of egg and sperm production are linked to salmon fishing quotas.

Over-fishing and issues relating to this.

No specifics, it is mentioned in our curriculum rather naturally, mainly around the nutrition and that salmon has PGI status. However, we do not go into any detail of Salmon fishing, at current.

Are pupils made aware of problems in the industry as well as benefits?

Yes – In some schools.

Are there plans to make any changes to the curriculum with regards to children's education about salmon farming?

We follow the curriculum set by the Scottish Government, but would note the following information currently on the SQA website:

'Aquaculture SCQF level 5 – SQA' - <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65601.html>

SVQ Aquaculture SCQF level 5 - This qualification has been withdrawn and will finish on 28/02/2027.